

# Men Make Houses; Women Make Homes

## Correspondence and Post-Card Exchange

All persons desiring to join this exchange are requested to send their full names and address to the Editor of Woman's Page, Times-Dispatch. These names will not be published for any other than correspondence or exchange purposes, only initials or a nom de plume being generally accepted. Address changes to be sent to Editor.

**E. B. L.**—It is not too late to plant a few bulbs of crocus and Roman hyacinths. These flowers, which will soon be in bloom. The seed stores sell them cheaper now, as they are fall stock. It matters not if the bulbs have small sprouts on them, only plant this kind a little nearer the surface of the soil.

Be sure to include petunias in your list of flower seed. They are most satisfactory little annuals, requiring so little attention and blooming so freely. Don't keep them too wet, however, as that makes the plant grow leaves instead of blooms. Several verbenas (white or scarlet) plants, put near the outer edge will grow you well, for they will trail over the sides and bloom well thus situated.

Very sincerely,  
F. V. M.

**Jessie.**—I noticed your request in the correspondence page of January 15th, and I thought the following would interest you, as you have time for letter writing. Mr. Ernest Joy Kingle, at the Home for Incubators, Richmond, Va., is an invalid whom I have known for several years. He is a young man confined to his bed and is almost as helpless as an infant. Having a bright, cheery disposition, and being a Christian, of course he bears his suffering bravely. The pleasures which he enjoys, though, are necessarily limited, the greatest of these is seeing callers, and next to that is receiving letters. He sends a number of letters, too, which he dictates, and friends stopping in to see him gladly act as his amanuensis. Mr. Kingle is a member of the Home Department of our Sunday-School, and when I next visit him I shall tell him of this communication.

I hope you will enter this open door for doing good and scatter sunshine in this life, which is not very bright. Very sincerely,  
F. V. M.

**G. P. A.**—Have sent you by this mail a series of cards showing points of interest in and around Washington, D. C. Should be glad to have included in your return postals some exterior and interior views of St. Paul's Church, especially desire an exterior view of the church with the spire, as it appeared in 1865.

P. F. H.

**Energy.**—Select small, firm heads of cabbage, quarter them and put them in brine for a week. Prepare a vinegar—dissolve one-half teaspoon of ground pepper, one of turmeric, one teaspoonful of mustard seed, one teaspoonful each of ground cinnamon, coriander and celery seed, one-half cup grated horseradish, a half dozen cloves and a cup of brown sugar in a quart of vinegar. Let this stand while the pickle is in the brine, and at the end of a week, drain the cabbage, and soak it well in clear water made strong with alum. Then put it in vinegar and water, mixed half and half, so that the cabbage is well covered, and seal under the vinegar and water and cover well with a seasoned vinegar. After a few days, mix one-half pound of ground mustard with one half pint of the best salad oil; allow this proportion to one gallon of the vinegar, and mix in well. Put the pickle in one jar, cover, seal and put in a dry, cool atmosphere. It will ripen thoroughly and be fit for use in about six weeks.

G. M. E.

**M. B. F.**—This is a good recipe for brown sugar fudge: One can of sweet condensed milk, one and a half cups of brown sugar, one cup of butter, one and a half cups of English walnuts. Boil twenty minutes, stirring steadily; pour on buttered plates, and when nearly cold, cut in squares.

B. N. U.

**C. P. S.**—Coronation should be applied to the goods in the pattern desired, just in the same way that old fashioned "transferring" was done. Neatness and care should be exercised in holding the braid smooth and in placing neat stitches. If this is done, there will be no trouble about the laundering.

M. C. S.

**H. S. T.**—The reason why your pickled and branded peaches get soft is because you have the syrup too thick. Let it run down to a gallon of the fruit and four pounds of sugar will make a good proportion for the pickle. Use nothing but the firmest peaches, not too ripe. Let them stand in the sugar several hours and then put them, one at a time, in the vinegar and syrup. Only let them remain long enough to seal, then take them carefully out of the hot syrup with a strainer and place them in a dish to cool. Season the syrup with a little stick cinnamon and some whole cloves tied loosely in a coarse thin muslin bag. Let it simmer down until quite thick, and when cool, pour the peaches in, from which must be closely sealed afterward. Lessen the quantity of your brandy in the other case, and you will find your trouble remedied.

E. H. G.

**G. P. G.**—Old fashioned syllabus is made from the best of cream, whipped, sweetened and flavored with good cherry wine and bitter almond and served in a cut-glass bowl, with the whipped cream of the cream piled high and dotted thickly with maraschino cherries.

**G. P. A.**—I shall be glad to exchange cards with you; will send cards of Guilford and Greensboro, N. C., for Virginia cards. Will also exchange with P. A. B.

M. C. H.

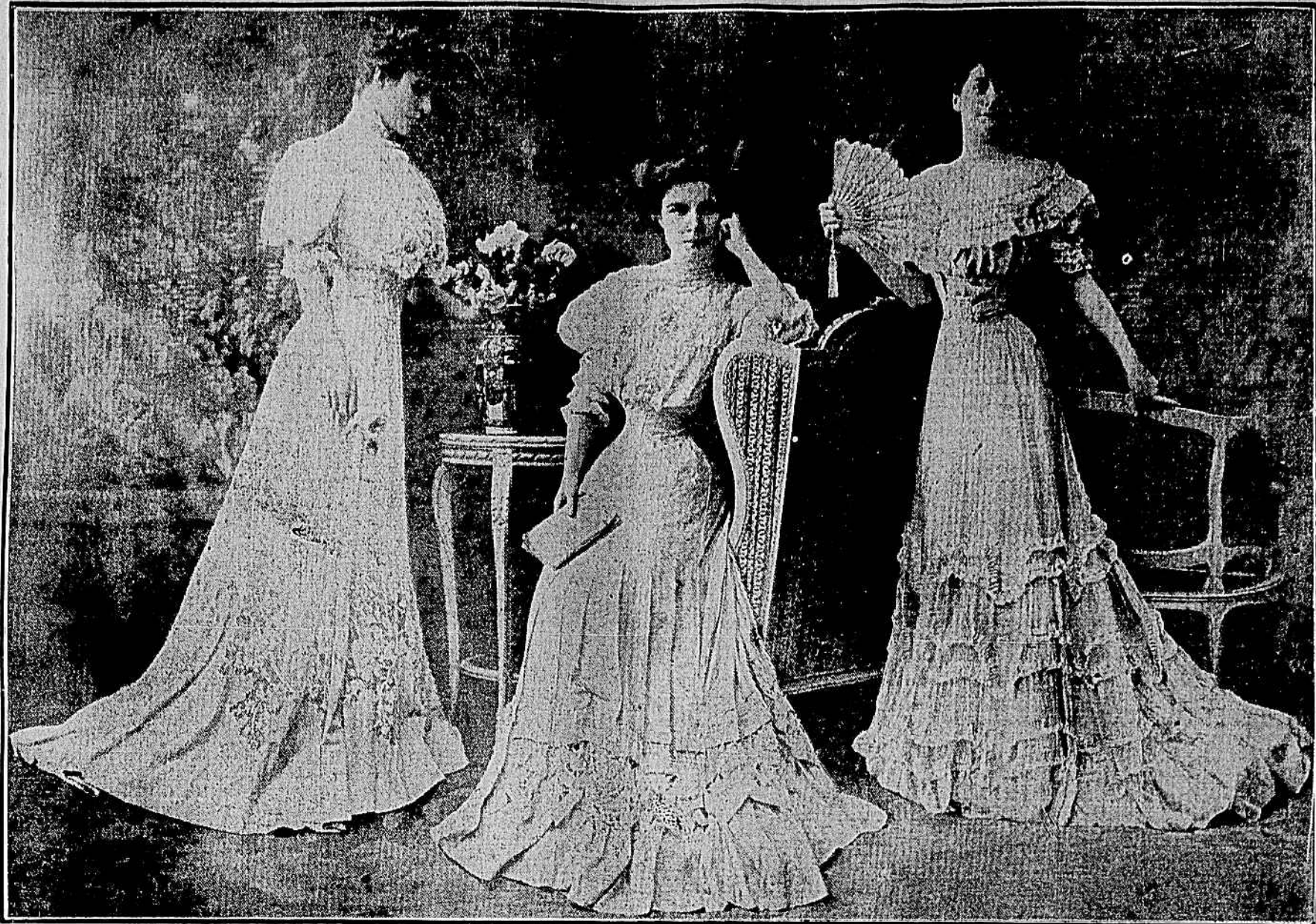
I should like to exchange postal cards with some one who lives in Delaware. Will send Richmond and Virginia views in exchange.

M. E. P.

I should like to exchange postals with some one who lives in Florida. Will send Richmond views in exchange for those of St. Augustine, Palm Beach and other Florida resort postals.

M. V. R.

**J. W. T.**—I cannot undertake to price your cameo, but I will write and let me know through the editor of the Woman's Page, Times-Dispatch, what you are willing to take for it. I will let you hear from me further. I should



CARRIAGE TOILET.

French Batiste, cream-colored, dotted with self color. Border of India silk, around bottom of skirt. Elaborately appliqued with lace, the design of which extends up over the skirt. The applique also trims the waist, which has a jabot of Valenciennes down the front.

AFTERNOON GOWN.

White cloth in corset effect, the plait allowed to flare below the knees. Skirt has double ruffle, bordered with an intricate design in cut work. Bodice has round yoke, with plaiting of the cut work similar to that on skirt, fashioned in straight rows bordered with tiny silk-covered buttons. High puffed sleeves with frilled cuffs.

EVENING FROCK.

White tulle, with long gathered skirt, trimmed with ruffles of the same. Bebe blouse decollete, outlined with three rows of shirtings, bordered with two narrow trills. High skirt, shirred across the front. Sleeves high puffs, finished with four lace flills.

be glad if you will let me know whether your cameo bears a head. If not, what is the design carved on it?

A. B. E.

**H. M. W.**—A literary club to which I belonged several years ago enjoyed greatly a course of study which dealt with the flowers of Shakespeare and the flower and folk-lore to be gathered from his text. For instance, the rosemary and the columbine, the crow-flower, the fennel, long-purples, the primrose and the rose in Hamlet; the cuckoo-buds and lady-smocks, in Love's Labor Lost; the flower de luce, love-in-idleness, mandragora, marigold, rosemary and the herb of grace, in others in different plays suggests a rich mine of study. Shakespeare's wonderful knowledge of legend and superstition can never be better appreciated than by tracing it out in this way. That he was not only a lover of flowers, but that he must have cultivated an intimate acquaintance with them from his earliest childhood, is immediately apparent to any one who reads and discusses what he has to say about flowers.

I. E. S.

**J. A. L.**—By way of starting the housekeeper's exchange, I should be glad if you would tell me why it is that a practical, working housekeeper now-a-days seems an impossible person to employ? My experience in the line of such employment has almost reduced me to despair. I should be glad to hear from some other housekeeper on the subject.

A. S. P.

I have an order for a copy of "Bay Leaves," by James Barron Hope, of Virginia. Any one having a copy and desiring to sell the same is asked to communicate with

R. L. K.

I am collecting clear hands, and am anxious to get as many different kinds as possible. Should be glad to exchange postal cards for clear hands. Who will send me some? E. E. S.

I should like to exchange postal cards with some one living in Roanoke, Va. Should like to get cards showing public and private buildings in Roanoke, and points of interest in its vicinity. Will give Virginia or Richmond postals for them.

F. A. H.

I am a member of a small literary club in a village in Virginia, and should like to correspond with some one who, like myself, is interested in planning a course of study for such a club. I am most desirous to map out something that will tend to improve mind and at the same time will be bright and attractive. Who can help me out in ideas?

H. M. W.

I should like to join your post-card exchange. I wish to exchange only historic or scenic postals, however. I do not care for comic cards.

P. A. B.

I am trying to make a collection of post-card pictures of famous old Virginia homes, and should be glad to send views in and around Richmond by way of exchange for them. I should especially like some picture postals of homes from Upper Virginia and the Northern Neck.

F. S. N.

I should like for a number of girls to join a round-robin club with me. I think we could get a great deal of fun and profit out of such a club. Send me your name and addresses and I will write you my plans in regard to the round robin.

L. B. C.

Can any one tell me how to make a sofa cushion with leather postals? I have heard that they make a very pretty cushion, and should like to know the best method of putting them together, and whether it is necessary to use a foundation.

E. R. S.

I am interested in college girls and

everything connected with college life. I am not a college girl myself, because I had to go to work very early, but I should be very glad to correspond with one. I can tell her all about the experiences of office life, and will be delighted to hear about college basketball and tennis teams, class days and fraternities. I specially desire information about fraternity work, which

has always seemed so pleasant to me.

B. L. S.

### For Coming-Out Frocks.

White lace and tulle are the materials used for the majority of delicate coming-out frocks, both for the reception and the first ball; and hyacinths seem to be the favored of all flowers in the bouquets for debutantes.

Only by those transported in carriage and motor vehicles has the long skirt, which is made to lie in folds at hem and literally sweep the ground, been taken up. Those who have to trust to other conveyances have set their seal of approval on the walking length gown, and at the most fashionable day-time functions they may be seen rivaling the trained models.

## THE GAME OF BRIDGE

By "CUT-CAVENDISH,"

The Author of "How to Win at Bridge," "Popular Bridge Player," Etc.

**IV.—Black Suit Declarations.**  
Last week I dealt with red suit declarations. To-day my text must be Clubs and Spades. Nor must it be supposed that these suits invariably belong to the defensive order. The dealer must use his own discretion in the matter.

Take the original declaration of clubs. The question whether this suit should ever be made or not with the score at love is probably one that will never be settled to the satisfaction of every one. Holding four or five honors in clubs, it is really difficult to say whether one ought to profit by the score above the line, or leave it to one's partner, in the hope that he will come back a declaration on which the game may be won. Assuredly the honor score is a very tempting asset, especially as dummy will frequently make it a spade. Personally I do not believe in declaring clubs originally with such a hand, save to the score. But if the game be so far advanced as to be won on a club call, it would be simple madness to pass, or even if the score were advanced as 15, and the dealer held four honors in clubs, I would still give that suit a run. Under all other circumstances I would leave it to my partner. After all he may hold no trumps, Hearts or diamonds.

Then we come to the defensive club call by the dealer, a rare avis fortunately. The sort of hand I refer to may easily be described. It contains no strength outside the suit named, and the clubs are numerous rather than high. Here is an instance where you had better cut your loss and declare clubs than leave it to dummy.

As to spades, they should never be made the subject of an attacking declaration by the dealer, unless his score be so near the 30 mark that he feels assured of the game, whilst fearing that dummy might go down on a red suit. Whether or no it is ever advisable for the dealer to call spades defensively is altogether another matter, and one which furnishes the bridge world with plenty of food for controversy. In the London clubs, I know, such declarations are looked upon askance, but in practice very many of the finest players one meets hold exactly the opposite view. At any rate, the question is one well worthy of careful consideration.

**Cutting the Loss.**  
Put briefly, the case simply amounts to this: Ought spades ever to be declared by the dealer on the grounds that he holds an utterly worthless hand? Let us first review the arguments which are constantly being used by the opponents of the original defensive spade. They say that the call is a declaration of great weakness; that consequently a double is almost bound to follow, and that the opponent will be able to finesse relentlessly through the dealer's hand. They also argue that the defensive call every now and then will deprive the dealer's partner of declaring no trumps with

four aces, or a red suit with all five honors in it.

And now for the reverse side of the proposition. I am quite aware that an original spade call is, as a rule, doubled, and that several odd tricks are almost certain to be lost. But one must not forget that with the dealer possessed of positive rage the situation is well-nigh hopeless from the start. A loss is practically assured, and therefore it is the dealer's business to make that loss as small as possible. This he can alone do by calling spades, which, even if they be doubled, still only count four points per trick. I have always contended that the time to gamble is when your cards are somewhat above the average, not when they fall far below it.

To leave the declaration on an absolutely worthless hand is certainly inviting disaster. Your partner on the declaration being left to him, does not know that you are practically assured, and therefore it is the dealer's business to make that loss as small as possible. This he can alone do by calling spades, which, even if they be doubled, still only count four points per trick. I have always contended that the time to gamble is when your cards are somewhat above the average, not when they fall far below it.

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**Defensive Measures.**  
Should dummy, however, come back a heart or a diamond, the position may still be a serious one. Either of these suits may be doubled, and even if the dealer suit escapes such summary measures, the deficit value is twice as great as a doubled spade. The result of the play of this hand is again probably disastrous, for how often can one expect the exposed hand to win seven tricks on its own, handicapped, as I frequently have seen it, by a very seldom, you may say, but a reverse. It must be remembered that we are making provision for what may be termed everyday contingencies rather than trying to circumvent that which is extremely unlikely to happen at the best of times.

Yet many first-class players will not hear of such defensive measures being employed. In all other respects they are willing to pin their faith to the law of probabilities, but the defensive spade by the dealer they will not swallow at any price. I suppose it is because they are so fearful lest a declaration of the kind on their part will be fol-

lowed by their partner putting down a hand containing many of the highest cards in the pack. Why not boldly face the reality? With the dealer so painfully weak, a loss is practically assured. Cut down its proportions as far as you can, and make it spades. You know that the declaration is something akin to having a tooth drawn at the dentist's. One should not forget that a visit to that admirable man is not made from pure love of the thing. It is a very necessary proceeding, for all that.

Mention should be made of the single exception relating to the dealer and the defensive spade. Supposing the enemy is within a few points of scoring the rubber game, and the dealer and his partner have hardly opened their account, desperate measures are required. The dealer can hardly expect to save the game, even with so low a scoring suit as spades. The loss of a number of points beneath the line has become a minor consideration for unless dummy has a cast-iron hand the game and the rubber are lost. As dealer you accept the situation and leave it to the dummy, hoping against hope. The probabilities are that you will be badly handled, but, as the game is as good as gone, why not do with your back to the wall?

**A Spade Call.**  
It now only remains to indicate what measure of weakness constitutes a defensive spade call by the dealer. Holding a certain trick in my hand, I should ever be inclined to give dummy a chance, and pass the declaration. Thus an ace serves two useful purposes. Not only does it make a trick and possibly prevent the establishment of an adverse suit, but it enables the dealer to get the lead at least once into his own hand. A finesse may then be attempted, on which the fortunes of the game may well turn. If you think your hand has the makings of a trick, give dummy the chance of declaring.

I would recommend a player to pass, therefore, should he be possessed of an ace, a king or a knave, or even two queens, provided the suits in which these cards lie are guarded. The original spade by the dealer is only to be relinquished as a last resource. Dummy may, of course, declare clubs on a hand which has the makings of not less than four tricks. Holding a bad hand, spades should be unhesitatingly declared. His partner, too, may hold great strength in that suit.

To call an absurdly light club just because he is shamefully weak in spades is no excuse for dummy, and yet it is a common enough error. Constantly you meet people who would rather call clubs on four comparatively small ones headed by an honor than spade by the dealer. Dummy must studiously avoid a declaration which is very unlikely to win the game, yet may lose it. Consequently, when dummy, do not be beguiled into calling clubs on less than five to two honors, unless the remaining suits can help you to a trick or so. Six clubs,

however small, invariably allow of the declaration taking this shape.

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### A Matter of Interest.

One's note paper is so expressive of one's taste and qualities that it is a matter of general interest that manufacturers have been of late offering new attractions in the line of cases, leather-bound or entirely of leather, of various sizes and supplied generously with the needed requirements for letter-writing that fit in one's trunk with ease. The largest example of this convenience is the size of a man's hat-box. The lid, when open carries a good portion of the paper supply, while the body of the box is ingeniously made to open into compartments. The economy of space is marvellously preserved—the supply carried being a very large and complete one. Fully equipped it costs \$50. It is fully worth it.

### Popular at Tea.

The wearing of what is called a smoking jacket of black velvet with a skirt of plain or plaided cloth continues to be popular at tea in the restaurants. The jackets are usually cutaway, trimmed with silk galloon with a shawl collar in black moiré silk. A new costume worn lately at a wedding reception consisted of a sheathing gown of silver bullion cloth, very shiny and fine, and covered with a robe of fine white illusion, trimmed only with lingerie tucks.

Morning gowns are characterized especially by the frill which surmounts the collar high up about the ears and hair; white lace gowns by the invariable white lace gumples and sleeves; and evening gowns by the cutaway, trimmed with silk galloon that reaches to the waist, the fabric of the skirt not above waist-line.

### Dressing Table Boxes.

Articles for the dressing table are always interesting. No a dainty lady, and two or three years ago, when the brocade boxes found in gold braid first made their appearance in the shops, there was a general rush to obtain at least one. Most of these first boxes had an engraving on the lid, inclosed in a glass, and the box was French and pretty, particular women noticed that their color scheme took something from the immaculate effect of the table. A way has just been found to make them as dainty as the rest of the toilet articles. The old print has been dispensed with, and in its stead the clever girl uses a piece of linen heavily embroidered with monogram, crest, or both, while the brocade forming the sides of the box is in the same shade as the wall paper and curtains of the room. The glass keeps the lid always fresh and clean, and the box may be in constant use for hairpins and trinkets without spoiling the white effect of the dressing table.

### How to Do It.

In working the first row of stitches across a petal, keep the outer edge even and firm; keep the inner edge of all the rows of stitches irregular and uneven.

When embroidering any flower, select the under or furthest back petals to begin with.

When the first petal has been completed, take the petal lying above or just in front of it and work the petals as marked in the diagram of petals; continue in this manner, working the petal above or in front of the one last embroidered.

The last or front petal should be the one of whose surface you can see the most, because it is not covered with overlapping petals.

The flower should be held in the hand when the embroidery is in progress, as it will appear to the observer when the centerpiece is on the table; the diagram of shades should be marked with this position in view.

## Questions and Answers

Question: Will you please answer these questions in next Sunday's paper? Will you please send to have music and postal cards copyrighted?

Answer: Write to the head of the Patent Office in Washington, D. C., and he will send you full information as to how you should proceed.

Question: Can you give me a new idea for a candleman's luncheon on February 2d, which I desire to render as unique and artistic as possible?

Answer: Use white china, and have the centerpieces of snowdrops or white hyacinths with white candles in a circle around it. The place cards may be done in water colors and show a cluster of snowdrops and a lighted candle. Serve vanilla ice cream, frozen in the shape of candles, for dessert, with blanched almonds, for which, which are lighted when sent to the table. Pass wax matches, with which each guest will light a place card. If a flame flickers without a visible draught, the weather will be windy; if a candle is slow to light, the weather will be rainy; the first candle to go out foretells an unhappy marriage; the one to burn longest, signifies wedded bliss. Before the candles are entirely burned out, let each one rise and walk three steps away, then see if the flame can be extinguished by one puff, for each puff adds one year's delay to a wedding.

Question: Which President of the United States has been as "The Colossus of Independence?"

Answer: John Adams, second President of the United States.

Question: Will you tell me the prettiest and least commonplace way of making an engagement announcement?

Answer: One clever hostess gave a beautiful luncheon, at which ten of the nearest and dearest friends of the bride-elect sat down to the feast. The color scheme was pink; the tablecloth was laid over that and the centerpiece was a cut-glass bowl filled with Killarney roses. The candles were pink in glass holders. The plates were outlined with pink carnations, forming a circle, except the place of honor, where the pinks formed a heart. The place cards were Cupids, doing all sorts of things, but that of the bride-elect had a heart pierced by an arrow, and Cupid was putting the rest of his arrows back into the quiver. The almond holders were pink rosebud boxes, and, on opening hers, the bride-elect found her engagement ring. Congratulations followed, and the bride-elect was surprised. Cupids ornamented the small cakes served, and the hostess had put a thimble in one, a ring in another and a sixpence in a third. The finding of these caused much merriment.

Question: What is the best way to have bright lamp chimneys? I wash mine with soap and water, but they are not as bright as I should like to have them.

Answer: I find the easiest and best way to clean lamp chimneys without using soap and water is to blow your breath into them, and polish with a piece of chamomile skin. They will sparkle like diamonds.

Question: Can you tell me of any remedy for roaches, anything that will drive them out or exterminate them?

Answer: Close the room or rooming house as tight as possible and burn celluloid of any description, and old corn or a cuff, placing it on the floor in a pan. Get out of the room, and keep out for thirty minutes. The fumes will kill the roaches.

Question: What are the gems and the flowers for the months?

Answer: The gem for January is the garnet; February, the amethyst and pearl; March, the bloodstone; April, the diamond; May, the emerald; June, the agate or cat's-eye; July, the ruby; August, the sardonyx; September, the sapphire and chrysochryse; October, the opal; November, the topaz; and December, the turquoise.

The flowers for the months, following in the order of the seasons, are the snowdrop, primrose, violet, daisy, hawthorn and honeysuckle, rose, water-lily and nasturtium, poppy, and hollyhock, morning-glory, and a golden-rod, dahlia and hop bloom, chrysanthemum and holly.

Question: Why is rice showered at a wedding as the symbol of good luck?

Answer: In the early ages doves were symbolical of peace and happiness. A bridal party in passing along a thoroughfare so frightened these gentle birds that they flew away in alarm. To avert the bad omen which their flight signified for the newly wedded pair, rice was thrown in profusion to lure them back. The strategy was successful, and the couple were so prosperous and happy that ever since rice has been used as a symbol of good luck, peace and plenty.

Question: Can you offer by way of suggestion something more novel, but on the order of a grab bag, for a charitable entertainment, where little as well as big people are to be amused?

Answer: Make a flower bed, and plant in rows a quantity of paper blossoms. Attach to the root of each flower, and let the article done up in tissue paper. Upon the payment of five cents, the buyer is allowed to pull one blossom.

The new empire evolution is very pretty and graceful indeed, and of most unimpeachable modesty, despite its inevitable reminder of old extremes.

The décolletage is by no means so low as the décolletage of empire times. Very often it is embellished with the tiniest white tulle, and a crescent of embroidery in fine crystal beads and bugles outlining the front of the décolletage, the tips reaching the shoulders, the widest part of the crescent in the middle part of the front.

The same arrangement adorns the back. Usually a short, loose sleeve of satin, opened up the outside, with an undersleeve of tulle lightly embroidered in crystals, is shown.

The short waist is very frequently defined by crescents like these defining the décolletage, the tips of the back and front, crescents meeting at the sides under the arms, with the skirts are usually untrimmed, and are cut so that they are drawn tightly across the front, but ripple in soft folds at the sides.

The general effect is one of great simplicity and cleverness of line.

Questions along the lines indicated in this column should be addressed to Editor of Woman's Page, Times-Dispatch. Those addressed elsewhere will be promptly answered.